

CLAIMS:

1. A system for processing electronic documents, comprising:
 - input means for inputting at least an input document (D1) and reference data (D2),
 - analysis means (16) for analyzing the content of the input document (D1) as
5 regards a content-based relation between the input document (D1) and the reference data (D2),
 - selection means for selecting a type of linkage from a number of predefined types of linkages, a type of linkage being selected that corresponds to the type of content-based relation between the input document (D1) and the reference data (D2),
10 - and output means for outputting a linkage (L) of the selected type.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1, in which the linkage (L) comprises a linkage direction.
- 15 3. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the reference data are a second document (D2).
4. A system as claimed in one of the claims 1 or 2, in which the reference data are a representation for a group of content-related documents.
20
5. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which:
 - during the selection of the type of linkage keywords are searched for which denote the type of linkage between the content of the input document (D1) and the reference data (D2),
25 - and a type of linkage is selected corresponding to the keywords found.
6. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which:
 - when the type of linkage is selected, the document (D) is assigned to one from a plurality of predefined types of documents,

- and a type of linkage is selected in accordance with the type of document.

7. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which:

- the input document (D1) comprises at least a text portion and a data portion,
5 - the data portion containing information about the type and/or origin of the document.

8. A system as claimed in claims 6 and 7, in which the data portion of the input document (D1) is used to select the type of document.

10

9. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the analysis means access a database in which terms are assigned to generic terms.

10. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which:

15 - the input document (D1) and the established linkage (L) are stored in a memory system (12),
- the memory system (12) being organized so that for documents stored therein there are linkages to other documents.

20 11. A method for processing documents in which:

- at least one input document (D1) and reference data (D2) are processed,
- the input document (D1) being analyzed with respect to its content and a decision being made whether there is a content-based relation between the input document (D1) and the reference data (D2),

25 - for the case of a content-based relation a type of linkage being selected from a number of types of linkages in accordance with the type of content-based relation between the input document (D1) and the reference data (D2),
- and a linkage of the selected type is established.

30 12. A program for implementing a method as claimed in claim 11.